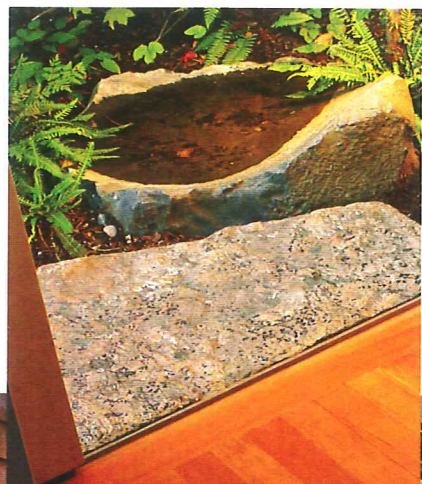


Forest Fusion

CONTEMPLATING NATURE IN THE CITY

Architect Bob Swain loves to hike the peaks of Washington's Cascade mountains, and he has brought the range's rugged aesthetic to his urban garden. When Swain began the remodel, the garden was no more than a concrete driveway and a few overgrown shrubs and trees. Now, mountain hemlocks skirted with native plantings conceal the garden from the street and remind him of Northwest alpine forests. A walkway of cedar planks leads past Douglas fir, quaking aspen, and bamboo to a meadowlike clearing planted with wildflowers such as bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*) and trillium. Hunks of granite salvaged from a Chinese village lead through carpets of salal and pave a quiet seating area. Native



ferns and rhododendron (*R. macrophyllum*) soften the stone and clothe the patio in green.

Asian elements and artifacts fit harmoniously into the natural-looking garden, adding style and an air of timelessness. An upright Buddha stone and Japanese-style water basin and fountain set the tone as you walk toward the meditation wing of the house (converted from an old garage). A sliding glass panel reveals an indoor-outdoor shower. Giant timber bamboo and slatted cedar screens create both privacy and an atmosphere of leafy sanctuary on this transformed city property.

ABOVE A diminutive city lot didn't prevent Swain from creating his own wooded sanctuary with native plantings. A naturalistic grove of mountain hemlocks screens the cedar plank walkway and entry to the garden's inner spaces.

FACING PAGE, ABOVE A slab of granite step, ferns, and a Japanese water basin are framed from inside the house in the Asian manner of blurring the lines between exterior and interior.

FACING PAGE, BELOW The small dining terrace is made intimate with a surround of house, arbor, breezeway, and giant timber bamboo. The base of the glass-topped table is a Chinese granite mortar.

RIGHT A wooden deck extends behind the meditation house. The open arbor carries the roofline of the house out into the garden, and provides support for climbing vines.



RIGHT Found materials can be put to new use in the garden. A hefty block of granite topped with glass makes a fine table for a patio paved with equally substantial granite slabs.

FACING PAGE, ABOVE Incorporating a few seaside treasures helped Carole McElwee to create this charming seating area. A set of rustic chairs and a table are fashioned out of bent branches; the table holds an urn covered with shells.

FACING PAGE, BELOW Shelly Coglizer created this cozy hilltop sitting area for her Lafayette, California, garden. A casual rattan swing dangles from a steel arbor, and oversize cushions complement the rusty patina of the metal.

BELOW In the garden of Martha Sturdy in Pemberton, B.C., a large outdoor terrace is furnished for lounging no matter the weather. Comfortable chairs, chaises, and benches are all amply supplied with cushions.

